

March 20, 2020

Dear SCCS Families,

Today, you have received two emails from my office. One is from all of County Superintendents with countywide updates; and this email, which includes updates that are specific to Santa Cruz City Schools. As we end our first week of school closure and prepare for the reopening of school through distance learning next week, I recognize the incredible challenge that the “Shelter in Place” order creates for families. I want to assure you that your teachers and support teams have been hard at work to prepare to support your children’s learning in the coming weeks. Below I have outlined some important information for all families.

### **Food Service**

Beginning Monday, March 23rd, we are moving some of our food service locations. We are serving a packed lunch and breakfast to all children from age 1 to 18 at the following locations from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you drive up, staff will hand you bagged meals through your car window. Families may also walk to the sites.

- Beach Flats Community Center
- Bay View Elementary
- Branciforte Middle School
- Harbor High School

Our partners in Soquel Elementary School District are providing meals for our families at:

- Soquel Elementary School
- Emerald Bay Apartments

### **School Site Offices are Closed Beginning Monday**

In order to support the health of our staff and community, most of our employees will be working from home beginning Monday. You can still contact our school sites via phone and email. Our staff will be checking messages throughout the day and returning calls.

### **Parent Questions and Concerns**

Please contact your student’s teacher(s) with any questions about instruction or distance learning. You can also reach out to administration, counselors and all regular support staff via phone and email to address your needs. If you need support from the district office, please call our main line at 429-3410, or send an email and we will assist you.

### **Chromebooks and Hotspots**

We are committed to ensuring every student has access to distance learning. If you did not pick up a Chromebook this week and still need one, please contact your school site. The internet hotspots for families without access to the Internet have not yet arrived. We are hoping to have our first shipment by the end of today. Your school site will contact you when hotspots are available. Only one is needed per household if you do not currently have internet access.

You can also click on these links to learn about other free internet services that you can sign up for at this time:

- **Xfinity WiFi: Free for Everyone**  
Visit [Xfinity.com/wifi](https://www.xfinity.com/wifi)  
*This means if neighbors have Xfinity, you can turn on the hotspot and make it available to families next door! Here is how to direct families to turn it on: <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/disable-xfinity-wifi-home-hotspot> This will not affect home network, and home network stays safe!*
- **Xfinity Home Internet: [Low income families](https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/disable-xfinity-wifi-home-hotspot)** - Free Home Internet  
[internetessentials.com/covid19](https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/disable-xfinity-wifi-home-hotspot)
- **Cruzio** - Offering Free Service for qualified families  
<https://cruzio.com/services/broadband/>

### **Special Education Services**

Families with students who receive special education services can expect to hear from their case managers and service providers next week if they have not already. Special educators, including related service providers, are working closely with general education teachers during the transition to remote learning. We want to ensure that the work sent home incorporates careful planning related to the accommodations that are unique to each child.

### **Distance Learning**

This week, every school site has collaborated to prepare to begin distance learning for all students on Monday morning. I am tremendously grateful to our teachers and our entire instructional team for their efforts to transition to a distance learning format in just a few days. Their deep commitment to serving students is evident in their creative, collaborative preparation for this instructional shift. Just as many of you are new to having your student(s) learn from home, this is a completely new instructional model for most of our staff. So, let's all embrace Monday as the "first day of school" in our new model. Teachers will be establishing norms and building community in this new virtual environment. Our teachers will be modeling learning themselves as we embark on this new way of schooling together.

### **Our Community**

This is an incredibly challenging time for our entire community. There are many different stressors facing families. You can access resources and supports by dialing 211. We will also continue to post resources and communication updates on our website at [www.sccs.net](http://www.sccs.net). We are also here to provide support, so please do not hesitate to reach out by phone or email.

Best regards,  
Kris Munro  
Superintendent